

Youth Justice Reimagined

–

**Youth Justice Advisory
Group**

**Presentation to
Probation Oversight
Commission**

August 12th, 2021

Youth Justice Work Group and Youth Justice Reimagined

AGN NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
SHEILA KUEHL August 13, 2019

Restructuring the Juvenile Justice System: Building a Health-Focused Model

Well-regarded research on adolescent brain development, positive youth development and trauma have demonstrated the ways youth are physiologically and fundamentally different from adults and require different interventions. Acknowledgement of these differences has resulted in the understanding that punitive models of juvenile justice not only result in worsened outcomes, which runs counter to the rehabilitative goals of the juvenile justice system, but also fail to make communities safer. Systems centered on healing and growth are essential for improving the well-being of young people.

Over the past decade, many counties have attempted to reform what had become, at their core, overly punitive juvenile justice systems; Los Angeles County (County) is among them. While local reform efforts have resulted in some improvements, including reductions in incarceration, fewer low-risk youth on probation, and greater investments in diversion, the County has so far struggled to achieve major improvements in the treatment of youth in its care and custody. This year, rampant use of pepper spray has put into question youth safety, and the significant mental health needs of youth – 90% of youth in the juvenile halls have an open mental health case – puts into question whether a system of incarceration is even appropriate. If the County is to meet its obligation of adequately addressing the rehabilitative needs of the youth in its care, it must acknowledge that the juvenile camps and halls model is fundamentally flawed, and that housing supervision and services within an agency with a law enforcement orientation may be counterproductive. Shifting towards a rehabilitative, care-first

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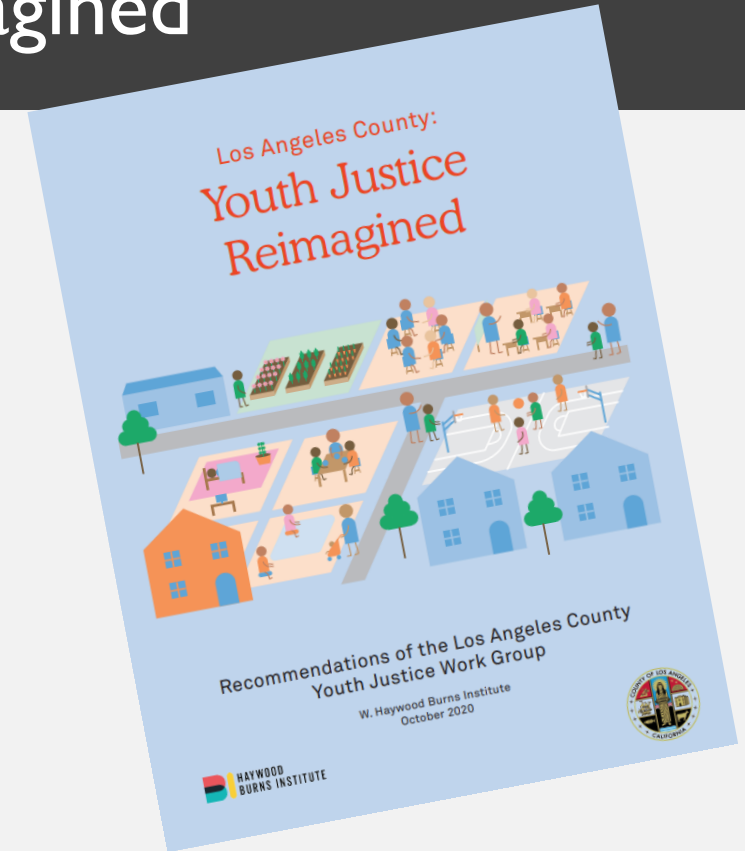
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August 13, 2019

**BOS passes Motion to
convene Youth Justice
Work Group (YJWG)**

January 2020

May 2020

Governor's May Revise Budget

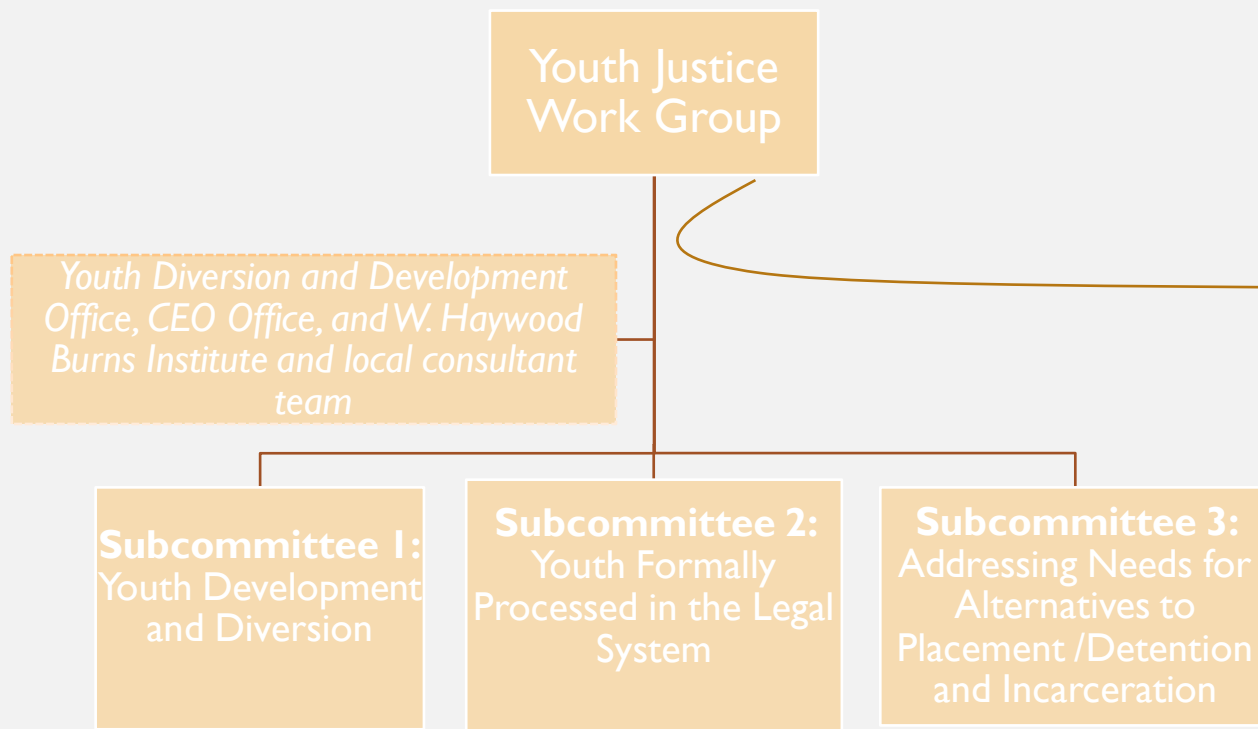
YJWG and Subcommittees Meets

Sept 2020

**YJR Report
Published**

Oct 2020

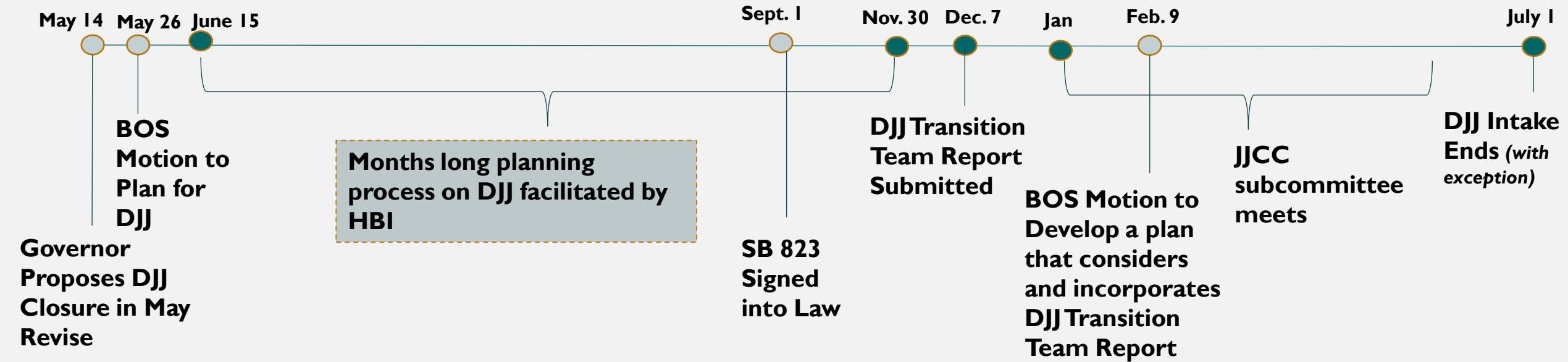
DJJ Transition Team



Subcommittee 4: DJJ Transition Team

- Grounded in values.
- Includes diverse stakeholders.
- Includes local experts on community driven models.
- Establishes Advisory Committee of DJJ Impacted Youth And Community.
- Uses data.

DJJ Transition Team Timeline 2020-2021



DJJ Transition Team Participants

- Probation
- Defense Counsel
- District Attorney
- Justice System Impacted Youth
- Service Providers
- Mental Health
- County Office of Education
- Judge
- Community based organizations
- Community Leaders
- Crime Survivor Advocates
- County Counsel
- County Executives Office
- Youth Development and Diversion

DJJ Youth Advisory Board

To ensure that the DJJ Transition Team centered youth voice and leadership, a DJJ Youth Advisory Board was created and facilitated by consultant Kent Mendoza.

GOALS

1. To discuss and develop recommendations based on their own experience
2. To highlight and bring to light concerns or issues in response to the DJJ Transition Team's discussions and brainstorm.

WORK

1. Nine virtual youth listening sessions with youth who are formerly and currently incarcerated at DJJ facilities;
 - 14 former youth formerly incarcerated at DJJ; 4 youth currently incarcerated at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility
2. Coach Ups and Prep Meetings for the DJJ Transition Team Meeting



Foundational Components

- **Department of Youth Development**

- To facilitate shared learning and building capacity for youth development, restorative practices, and collaborative decision-making; oversee and be accountable for the expansion of community-led alternatives to crisis response and justice system involvement.

- **Youth Development Network**

- To invest in a thriving community-based network is the foundation of this new model so youth have access to 24-hour youth and community centers with high quality activities and services in their communities that support their health, social, cognitive and creative, vocational, environmental, and leadership competencies.
- If an incident occurs at school, youth are connected to community-building or transformative justice circles instead of being suspended or expelled and/or are referred to a local diversion program instead of being arrested for a school-related incident.

- **Youth Empowerment Support (YES) Teams**

- To facilitate effective multidisciplinary team decision making along the continuum of the youth legal system. The diverse network of partners that will establish authentic and deep relationships with youth, families and communities, will be resourced to bring a community lens to decision making and ensure racial, cultural and restorative responses; responses that reflect the principles of youth development.

Foundational Components

- **Home-like, Community-Based Therapeutic Housing and Reentry**
 - To move away from institutionalized detention and incarceration in dehumanizing facilities to providing therapeutic supportive housing and reentry services, including a new community-based, small home-like model that provides restorative, healing environments with a range of security levels and holistic services, opportunities for youth to step down to lower security settings, and improved reentry supports.
- **Supportive Youth Development Services and Credible Messengers**
 - To advance peacebuilding, reduce violence, and engage youth and families in supportive case management services through supporting and growing a youth development workforce, including opportunities for County staff to participate in professional development and transitional training and connecting with efforts to hire credible messengers and peer navigators.
- **Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms**
 - To connect, streamline and build on the existing work of oversight and advisory bodies and meaningfully involve youth and community in program, policy, and budgetary decision-making.

November 24, 2020: LA County BOS Motion on Youth Justice Reimagined

AGN. NO. _____
November 24, 2020

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL
AND MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

Youth Justice Reimagined: A New Model for Youth Justice in Los Angeles County

For decades, the youth justice system in America was shaped by a fundamentally flawed belief that young people need to be punished and incarcerated in a similar manner as adults. This "tough on crime" philosophy of the late 1980s and early 1990s has been universally debunked by research from across many fields including neuroscience, psychology, and child development. Nevertheless, it generated misguided criticism of the youth justice system as being too "soft on crime." With little data or evidence, gross generalizations about youth crime progressed to such a degree that in 1996, 62 percent of poll respondents in a California survey believed "most crime nowadays is committed by young people." In reality, young people were responsible for only about 13 percent of violent crime that year. By the end of the 1990s, every state had either made it easier to prosecute young people as adults or rolled back the confidentiality protections that are a core element of the youth justice system¹.

¹Can we eliminate the youth prison? (And what should we replace it with?), Columbia Justice Lab's Square One Project, June 2020.

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- I. Adopt the nine core values** summarized above and detailed in the October 2020 report of the Youth Justice Work Group entitled "Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined" (YJWG Report)
- and **commit to transitioning the County's youth justice system to the care-first model** outlined in the YJWG Report by 2025, **pending resolution of the necessary legal, budgetary and legislative issues,**
 - and **support the continued planning and collaboration** required to make the model in the YJWG Report, including a Department of Youth Development (DYD), a reality.

Plus additional directives for CEO, YDD, County Counsel, Probation and other relevant departments to report back on a plan to establish a Youth Justice Transition Advisory Group, legal analysis, fiscal analysis, current staffing needs, etc.



July 13: LA County BOS Motion on Youth Justice Reimagined

KEY DIRECTIVES

- Direct CEO, in collaboration with the Chief Probation Officer, YDD, DHR, and County Counsel to submit the next Youth Justice Reimagined quarterly report in 45 days with detailed information including:
 - I. A comprehensive list of **functions, duties, activities or programs currently carried out by the Probation Department** that are not statutorily required to be performed by sworn peace officers or other Probation Department staff
 - I. **Strategies that can be used to ensure the Probation Department's footprint does not grow** in a manner that might hinder or delay the transition from a Probation Department to a Department of Youth Development
 - I. **A detailed update on the legislative strategy** that will be implemented to pursue the legislative changes that are necessary in order to move forward with the Youth Justice Reimagined Model

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND
HOLLY J. MITCHELL

AGN. NO. _____
July 13, 2021

Youth Justice Reimagined: Fulfilling Los Angeles County's Commitment to A New
Youth Justice Model

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has made its commitment to a new youth justice model in Los Angeles County (County) clear. Fundamentally, this model prioritizes principles of youth development and racial equity, opportunities for genuine healing and the development of therapeutic relationships, meaningful connection to community, and access to effective community-based support across the continuum of services for young people in our County. The Youth Justice Reimagined model is about much more than simply establishing a new County department. It is about a holistic vision that leans on service providers, community stakeholders, and youth justice advocates to promote healing, treatment, restorative justice, peacebuilders in schools, and significant expansion of diversion and reentry services.

In order to realize the vision proposed by the Youth Justice Work Group in its report entitled, "Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined", it is essential that we leverage existing resources in the service of this vision, which has been unequivocally adopted by the Board. The Board took a critical first step by funding the Department of

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July 13: LA County BOS Motion on Youth Justice Reimagined

KEY DIRECTIVES

- **Public Legal Analysis** – Direct County Counsel to report-back in 30 days with a public-facing fact sheet summarizing the legal considerations associated with implementing the Youth Justice Reimagined model, including those issues that require legislative change as well as those that can be implemented without legislative change
- **Probation Juvenile Budget** – Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with CEO, to report-back in 45 days with a comprehensive list of all funding streams that are connected to its Juvenile Operations, including a detailed description of the funding source, requirements, and existing commitments tied to said funding streams.
- **DYD Project Fund** – Instruct the CEO to report back in the Supplemental Budget with details on the “DYD Project Fund”



July 27: LA County BOS Motion on DJJ Alternatives

KEY DIRECTIVES

- **Kilpatrick** – Adopt the JJRBG Subcommittee recommendation for Campus Kilpatrick to be the temporary SYTF location, until a permanent location is identified
- **YJR** – Recognize that any and all alternatives to DJJ shall be aligned with the vision of Youth Justice Reimagined
- **Facility assessment and Community Outreach** – Instruct the Probation Department, in consultation/coordination with the Youth Justice Advisory Group and JJRBG Subcommittee on:
 - An assessment of all licensed probation facilities to identify and rank the feasibility of the use of each campus to house DJJ youth, and report back findings to the Board in 60 days
 - A community outreach plan which will guide community meetings that will follow upon the selection of the site(s) by the Board

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AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND

HILDA L. SOLIS

July 27, 2021

Substitute to Item 20: Identifying a Compliant Location to House, Care, and Support Former Department of Juvenile Justice Youth

In September 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 823 ("SB 823") – the Juvenile Justice Realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration which declared the intent of Legislature to close the California Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ") and transferred the responsibility of the custody, treatment, and supervision of future DJJ youth to counties effective July 1, 2021. SB 823 further required the creation of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant ("JJRBG") assigned with the preparation of the DJJ transition plan and the allocation of funding to counties in preparation for the reception of DJJ youth. On May 14, 2021, Senate Bill 92 was enacted which declared June 30, 2023 as the actual closure date of DJJ.

In order to meet the requirements of the JJRBG, SB 823 directed counties to form the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) subcommittee, chaired by the Probation Department, whose membership shall include a representative from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and the Court, as well as a minimum of three community members, to develop a plan that included but was not limited to a description of the facilities, programs, services and supervision appropriate to both rehabilitate and supervise the DJJ youth. The recommendation by

BGA.1033451.52.1



July 27: LA County BOS Motion on DJJ Alternatives

AGN. NO
REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL May 26, 2020

Preparing Los Angeles County for the Closure of the State's Division of Juvenile Justice

On May 14, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced, as part of the revised budget, that the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will be closing. Starting January 1, 2021, DJJ will no longer admit new youth and these youth would instead be housed at the county level. Over time, the three DJJ facilities will close. It is unclear whether any youth currently held at DJJ, or transferred there before January 2021, will be transferred to counties as well. It is also unclear whether courts and prosecutors will start to adjust their current practices, including those related to charging, plea-dealing and petitions for transfer, ahead of January 2021. As explained in the Governor's revised budget, this move is intended to help close a historic budget deficit created by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to ultimately "enable youth to remain in their communities and stay close to their families to support rehabilitation."

While this change is sudden, last year Governor Newsom took steps to shift away from a punitive state system by moving DJJ into a separate department under the State's Health and Human Services Agency. This action was intended to bring about a cultural change to create opportunities to enhance educational, mental health and social service

- MORE -

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- **Plan for permanent housing** – Direct the JJRBG, YJAG, YDD, JCHS, and DMH to develop a plan and report back to the Board, in writing in 60 days, on how youth who are temporarily placed at any temporary SYTFs, will be placed with expediency in an identified permanent SYTF
- **Programming, Staffing, Less Restrictive Options** – Instruct the JJRBG Subcommittee to devise a plan, with input from the Youth Justice Transition Advisory Group, community service providers, and Probation Department labor partners that includes:
 - Supportive programming (including, among other needs, community-based programming inside facilities to link youth to re-entry services)
 - A transformative staffing model (e.g. co-staffing model and employment of credible messengers from outside of the Probation Department) that facilitates a safer more therapeutic environment at all SYTFs
 - Plan to ensure that a continuum of less restrictive options, including diversion, will be available

Report back in writing in 45 days with an update on progress, and report to the Board every 60 days thereafter



RESEARCH AND DESIGN – NEXT PHASE

Objectives

Work Structure and Workgroups

Calendar Overview

Survey Results

OBJECTIVES

Model

Phased Implementation

Implementation Proposals

Reimagined Youth Justice Model: Phase I

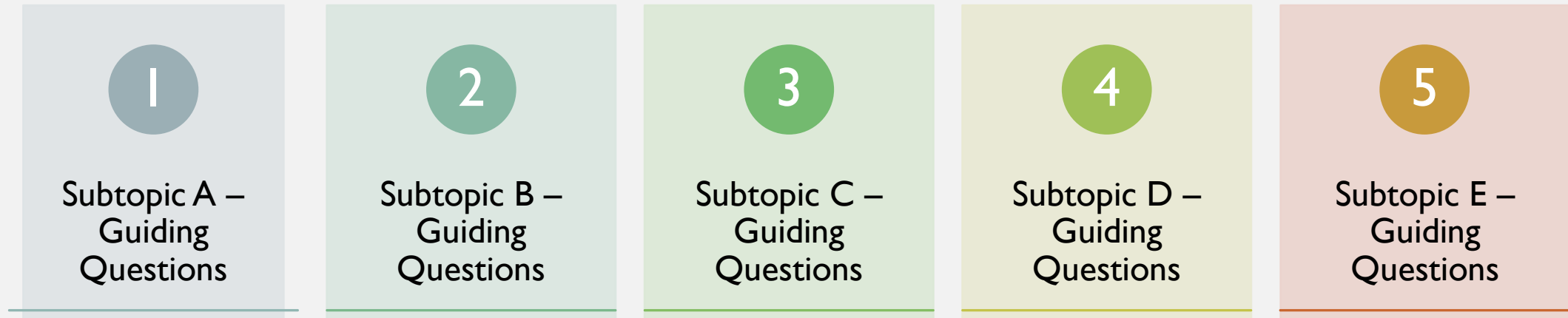
GOALS

- Strengthen and increase development and diversion alternatives
- Further reduce numbers of court-involved youth
- Continue planning justice system decision-making through Youth Empowerment and Support (YES) Teams across continuum
- Work with Probation to launch pilot alternative to incarceration in response to DJJ closure
- Establish oversight mechanism over new agency and remaining probation department (including JJCC and Youth Commission)
- Continue transition planning for next phases

This Phase – Develop implementation proposals for Phase I

WORK STRUCTURE: ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN SMALL WORKGROUPS

SUBTOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS



SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKGROUPS --> INITIAL WORKGROUPS

INITIAL WORKGROUPS

DYD: Org
Structure and
Oversight

DYD: Contracts
and Grants

Research & Data
Infrastructure

Youth Dev.
Network:
Expansion of YDD

Designing Spaces:
Security County
Facilities

Collaborative
Decision-making

Reentry and
Support for
Currently
Incarcerated Youth

2021 Calendar Overview

| | YJAG | Deliverables |
|------|---|--|
| JUNE | June 16, 12-2 pm – YDD Steering Committee | |
| JULY | July 29, 12:30-2:20 – YJAG Launch Subcommittees and workgroups convene | Final composition and structure of YJAG and calendar for regular meetings, including subcommittee meetings. |
| AUG | Full YJAG Meetings – July 29, 12-2 pm Sept 16, 12-2 pm | Literature review and summary of initial findings from research and analysis of existing data, budget, and legal analysis. |
| SEPT | | |
| OCT | | |
| NOV | | |
| DEC | Refine and finalize Phase I design recommendations | Phase I implementation proposals, legislative priorities to CEO/Board |

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH DIVERSION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES TO ARREST AND FILING

PRESENTED BY:

Refugio Valle, *Director*

Mariana Mendoza, *Network Engagement Coordinator*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S MODEL FOR YOUTH DIVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Health Agency contracts with community-based providers for countywide network of youth diversion / development services
- Referrals from law enforcement are pre-arrest / pre-booking, including higher level offenses
- Youth get strengths-based assessment, holistic individualized care plan, and graduated case management



YDD'S FIRST COHORT OF PRE-ARREST DIVERSION PROGRAMS

- 1st cohort launched in 2019 includes 10 locations based on areas of the County with highest rates of youth arrests:

1. Culver City PD
2. El Monte PD and LASD Industry Station
3. Huntington Park PD
4. LAPD Mission Division
5. LAPD Southwest and 77th Divisions
6. LASD Century Station
7. LASD Lancaster Contract City
8. LASD Palmdale Contract City
9. Long Beach PD
10. Pasadena PD

YDD 1st Cohort Providers:

1. Alma Family Services
2. Asian Youth Center
3. California Conference for Equality & Justice
4. Centinela Youth Services
5. Champions in Service
6. Flintridge Center
7. New Earth
8. Soledad Enrichment Action

- In December 2020, YDD also started receiving referrals from the DA's office

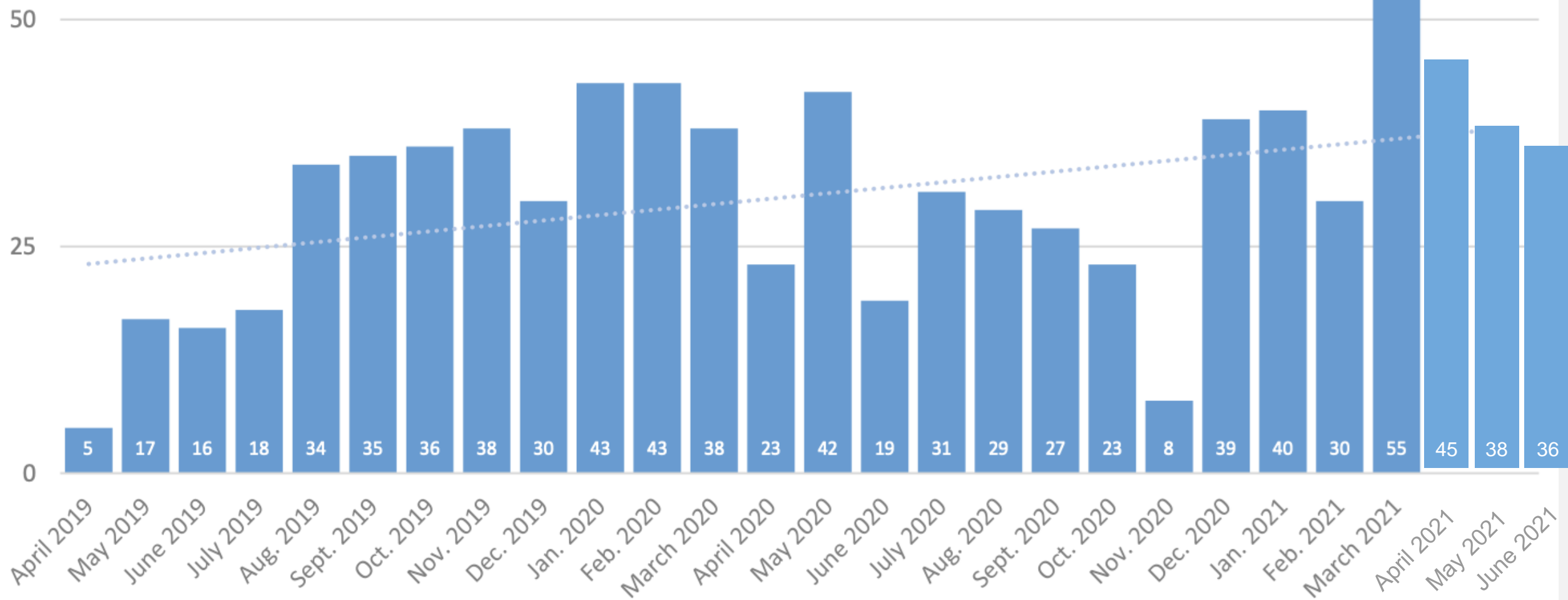
YDD'S COHORT 2!

- Our expansion of youth diversion services is launching in the next few weeks as we wrap up the solicitation process for our 2nd Cohort of sites and service providers.
- YDD will be expanding to additional diversion program locations in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Pomona Police Department, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach Police Departments.
- We are excited to bring more capacity to support youth diversion in LA County and work on offering more opportunities for youth development as we move to a better more holistic infrastructure.

A SUMMARY OF YDD'S DATA SO FAR

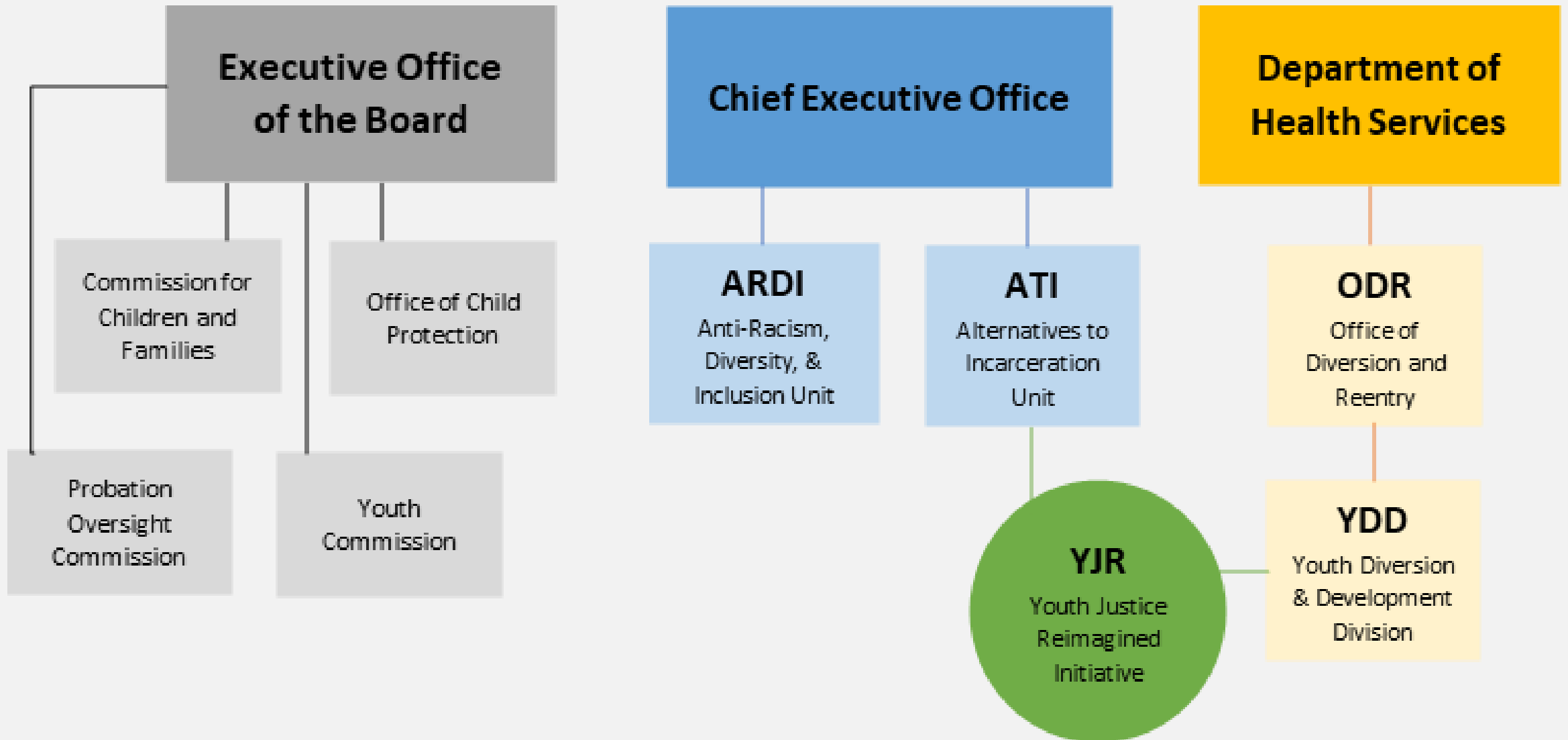
- As of July 1, 2021, 8 YDD providers received 843 total youth referrals
 - Approximately 93% are formal youth diversion referrals in lieu of arrest or petition filing and 7% are informal youth development referrals
- 54% youth referred are Hispanic/Latinx; 33% are Black; 4% are White; and 3% are Bi/Multi-Racial, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indigenous, Other; 5% Unknown / Declined to Answer
- 49% youth referred for alleged Misdemeanors, 28% for alleged Felonies, 6% for Status / Infractions, and 18% Unknown
- The top 5 most common youth goals for youth participating in YDD programs are: School-Related Goals (25%), Civic Engagement or Social Justice Goals (14%), Behavioral Health Goals (13%), Recreational or Creative Goals (11%), and Work-Related Goals (10%)
- Youth participating across the network report improvements in key protective factors and high program satisfaction. We're looking forward to learning more during our upcoming two-year program evaluation!

Figure 1. Youth Referred to YDD Programs by Month, June 2021 (n=843)



YDD & YOUTH JUSTICE REIMAGINED ALIGNMENT:

MAPPING LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES



AN UPDATE ON INITIAL FY21-22 YOUTH JUSTICE REIMAGINED FUNDING

\$26.1M

This reflects \$13.6M new one-time Net County Cost funding provided to YDD to support countywide expansion as outlined in Phase I of the Youth Justice Reimagined report, in addition to YDD's existing budget.

WHAT DOES THIS FUNDING INCLUDE FROM JULY 2021 TO JULY 2022?

1. Staff and Research/Evaluation Consulting (\$4.5M)
 - ~14 new staff at YDD to support expanded programming, improved training and capacity-building, and support for policy projects including YJR
2. Youth Justice Reimagined Planning (\$3M)
 - YJR Consultant Team
 - Restorative/Transformative Justice Capacity-Building
 - Youth Development Capacity-Building
 - Research, Evaluation, and Data Infrastructure
 - Convenings and Supplies
3. Youth Diversion and Development Programming (\$16.5M)
 - Increased funding level, decreased caseloads for community-based orgs
 - Expanded referral sources to increase access for youth countywide, including schools and other youth-serving systems
4. One-time Additional Programming (\$2M)

THANK YOU!

Any Questions?